

# WHY IS MY SCHOOL PARTICIPATING IN THE DC YRBS?

**THE INFORMATION IS CRITICAL.** The District of Columbia Youth Risk Behavior Survey (DC YRBS), conducted biennially by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), is the most comprehensive, representative source of data regarding risky health behaviors for our middle and high school students across the District.

**SCHOOL PARTICIPATION IS REQUIRED.** All District public and public charter middle and high schools are required to participate as part of the LGBTQ Health Data Collection Amendment Act of 2018.

**STUDENT PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED.** All students in grades 6-12 will be asked to complete the survey, but student participation is completely voluntary.



Results from the DC YRBS are used by local education agencies and health professionals to support the design, implementation, and evaluation of effective risk behavior prevention and control programs.



DC YRBS data are used to mobilize resources focused on risk behaviors like vaping, marijuana and other drug use, feeling sad or hopeless, drinking alcohol, and being bullied or abused. Everyone plays an important role in protecting our youth across the District.



**As coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to challenge our schools, it is critical to monitor behaviors which put our youth at the greatest risk for harm.**



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

**Call us to schedule your school's participation in the DC YRBS.** Your school is required to participate. The input from your students is essential to helping us monitor current and emerging trends of risk behaviors in our youth.

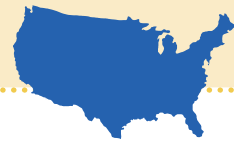
- The survey is web-based and typically takes students **25 minutes or less to complete.**
- Students will need internet-connected devices to participate.
- A trained data collector will visit the school to facilitate the survey.
- The survey can be administered on any convenient date between Sept. 16 and the end of November.
- Strict survey protocols are in place to protect student and school privacy.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 2019 YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR  
Survey DC and National Results Comparison  
(Grades 9-12)



13%



33%



Used an electronic vapor product during the past 30 days

9%



Binge drank alcohol during the past 30 days

14%

29%



Used marijuana during the past 30 days

22%

44%



Ever had sexual intercourse

38%

15%



Attempted suicide during the past 12 months

9%

29%



Were in a physical fight during the past 12 months

22%

18%



Were overweight

16%